

# Efficacy of Organic Soil Amendments and a Nematicide for Management of Root-Knot Nematode *Meloidogyne* Spp. of Onion

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**Abstract:** Field experiments were conducted in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 planting seasons to evaluate the efficacy of different sources of organic materials and a nematicide Furadan 5G in the control of *Meloidogyne incognita* infection on the major spices onion, *Allium cepa* L. The organic materials (poultry refuse, mustard oil cake, rice bran and sawdust) were incorporation with the soil 3 weeks before transplanting of onion seedlings whereas Tricho-composts were added in the soils 5 days before seedling transplanting. The results showed that different organic materials displayed varying levels of effective to the nematode infection. All the treatments gave satisfactory reduction of gall development on roots and increased plant growth as well as yield of onion. Among the treatments, Tricho-composts and poultry refuse appeared to be the best amendments for root knot nematode reduction and significantly influenced the growth of the onion with the highest yield. Saw dust, rice bran and nematicide Furadan 5G were also proved to be better amendment for reduction of root knot nematode which enhanced plant growth and increased yield of onion. These results suggest that exploitation of organic soil amendment in nematode management would be a useful control measure in onion production in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Onion, Tricho-Compost, Organic Materials, *Meloidogyne*, Nematicide

## 1. Introduction

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) is one of the most important and familiar crop spices specially bulb onion through the world. It is a member of the family Alliaceae. It is also used as popular vegetable in many countries of Asia and also very common and favorable spice in Bangladesh. It ranks first in the area (419122 ha) and production (1704402 MT) [1]. It covers almost 46% of the total areas under spices [1]. The national average yield is only 4.07 t/ha which are quite low compared to world average of 17.27 t/ha [2]. Onion crops are affected by a number of soil borne and foliar diseases [3-5]. Purple blotch caused by *Alternaria porri*, is noted as the major foliar disease throughout the world including Bangladesh [5-7]. Common soil-borne diseases of onion are damping-off, pink root and *Fusarium* basal rot and root knot nematode. Recently, root knot nematode of onion is become destructive and most prevalent where temperatures are 18 to 27°C, except for *Meloidogyne hapla*, which is adapted to lower temperatures. A number of

phytonematodes are associated with onion roots and soil of onion fields in onion growing countries. The well documented species are *Aglenchus siddiqii* [8], *Ditylenchus dipsaci*, *Helicotylenchus indicus* [9], *Meloidogyne incognita* [10, 11], *M. hepla* [12], *M. chiwoodi* [13], *M. arenaria* [14], *M. graminicola* [15], *M. javanica*, *thamesi*, *Pratylenchus brachyurus* [16]. Among them *M. incognita* and *M. graminicola* are known as onion root knot nematode, which are the common pest of the crop. *Meloidogyne* spp. have a wide host range belonging to many plant species but onion is the most suitable host among them [11].

The management of plant parasitic nematodes especially root knot nematode is more difficult in comparison to other pests because they usually live in the soil and attacks the underground parts (roots) of the plant. Further, the enhancement consideration to the environment protection and to human and animal health, which have deeply delimited and revised the use of pesticides on agricultural crops, is stimulating investigation to find new alternative control

strategies that are environmentally sound and economically convenient at the same time. Therefore, research on small environmental impact alternatives to chemicals has received a strong impulse and considered a wide range of options including agronomical and physical methods (green manures, crop rotations, non-hosts, antagonistic crops, soil amendments, the use of resistant cultivars and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, soil solarization and steam), the use of natural products from plants and biological control agents [17-22] but each method has some limitation to implementation [23, 24]. The use of resistant cultivars is the most desirable method to reduce the nematode population, particularly because of absent risk to the producer and to the environment [25-27] but the number of resistant and adapted genotypes to the different cultivation regions is limited. Crop rotation including the cultivation of nematode antagonists [28, 29] which also promote the improvement of physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil have been suggested for the management of these parasites [30]. But this control method is not always accepted by the producer because they cannot afford to keep areas uncultivated for periods of 60 to 90 days. Therefore, searching for other management alternative is important, and the use of organic soil amendments provides many benefits, such as the increase in the population of natural enemies [31], changes in physical and chemical properties of soil, including base saturation, porosity and conductivity of water, which leads to better plant growth and greater tolerance to pathogens [32, 33]. Thus, we aimed to assess the effectiveness of organic amendments such as poultry refuse, mustard oilcake, Tricho-composts in the management of root-knot nematode of onion and to increase plant growth and yield of onion.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The performance of organic soil amendments viz. poultry refuse, mustard oilcake, rice bran and saw dust and Tricho-composts and Furadan 5G for the management of root knot nematode, *Meloidogyne* spp. was investigated in the field experiments at three cropping seasons during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

### 2.1. Tricho-Compost Preparation

Isolated *Trichoderma harzianum* (TM7) was initially multiplied on substrate containing a mixture of rice bran, wheat bran and mustard oilcake to obtain a formulated *T. harzianum*. The formulated *T. harzianum* was used for mass multiplication in two different mixtures of cow dung based compost materials. One of those composts contained cow dung and rice bran and the other contained a mixture of cow dung, rice bran and poultry manure. The formulated *Trichoderma* was added in between two layers of compost materials and kept for 45-50 days maintaining the moisture content approximately 60-70% for rapid multiplication of *T. harzianum* in the compost materials. Based on compost materials used in composting these composts were designated as Tricho-compost-1 and Tricho-compost-2.

### 2.2. Field Experiment

The field trials were conducted in the fields of Plant Pathology Division, BARI, Gazipur during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 cropping years. There was 8 treatments namely i) Furadan (F) 5G @ 45 kg/ha, ii) Poultry refuse @ 5 t/ha iii) Mustard oilcake @ 600 kg/ha, iv) Rice husk @ 3 t/ha, v) Saw dust @ 3 t/ha, vi) Tricho-compost-1 @3 t/ha and vii) Tricho-compost-2 @3 t/ha viii) Control. The field experiments were laid out in randomized complete block design (RCBD) with 3 replications. The unit plot size was 2 m x 3 m keeping 1m distance from plot to plot. Standard cultivation procedures recommended by BARI were followed to grow onion with little modification. The experimental land was prepared with proper tillage and fertilizers were added during final land preparation. Requisite amount of poultry refuse, mustard oil cake, rice bran and sawdust were incorporation with the soil 3 weeks before transplanting of onion seedlings whereas Tricho-composts were added in the soils 5 days before seedling transplanting. After application, the organic materials were properly mixed with the soil and kept moist for proper decomposition. Furadan 5G was added at the time of seedling transplanting. To ensure inocula of the nematode, chopped severely galled roots of tomato infected with *Meloidogyne* spp were mixed with the furrow soils @ 200 gm<sup>-2</sup> just before seedling transplanting. Forty five days old onion seedlings cv. Bari-piraz-1 grown on sterilized soils was transplanted in the experimental plots maintaining row to row and plant to plant distance of 15 cm and 10 cm, respectively. During crop season necessary weeding, irrigation and other intercultural operations were done as per recommendation of the crop.

### 2.3. Data Collection

Data on plant height, plant weight, root length and yield were recorded. Gall index was recorded after final harvesting of onion according to 0-10 scale Zeck [34]. Data were analysis by using MSTATC program following ANOVA. Treatment means computed using least significant difference (LSD) test.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Severity of Root-Knot Disease Severity

In all the years, the severity of root-knot disease of onion was reduced significantly over control due to treatment of soil with poultry refuse (PR), Tricho-composts, mustard oilcake (MOC) as well as rice bran, saw dust and application of Furadan 5G. In the first year, the maximum average gall index value of 3.57 was recorded in the control plot. It was reduced to 1.33 to 2.03 due to treatments with organic amendments and the Furadan 5G. The lowest severity of root-knot disease of onion was recorded from the treatment with Tricho-compost-2, which was followed by poultry refuse, Furadan 5G, mustard oilcake and Tricho-compost-1 (Table 1). Soil treatment with Tricho-compost-2 gave the

highest reduction of root-knot severity 60.80% compared to control followed by poultry refuse, Furadan 5G, mustard oilcake and Tricho-compost-1 where the reduction of root-knot disease severity was 60.78%, 59.94%, 57.98% and 57.14%, respectively.

In the second year, the highest gall index value of 2.73 was found in control plot and the values were reduced to 1.20 to 1.60 due to application of different treatments. The reduction in disease severity was significant compared to control. The maximum reduction was obtained with poultry refuse 60.80% /ha followed by Tricho-compost-1 and Tricho-compost-2 where the reduction was 56.04%. The least

effective treatment to reduce root galling was saw dust followed by rice bran and Furadan 5G (Table 1).

In the third year, all the treatments gave significantly similar effect in reducing root-knot disease severity over control. The highest gall index value of 3.46 was recorded in control plot and the values were reduced to 1.24 to 1.75 due to application of different treatments. The highest reduction of root-knot disease severity 64.16% was observed in poultry refuse followed by Furadan 5G, Tricho-compost-2, Tricho-compost-1 and mustard oilcake where the reduction of root-knot disease severity was 63.29%, 63.29%, 63.01% and 59.54%, respectively (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Effect of soil treatment with organic amendments, Tricho-composts and a nematicide on the severity of root -knot disease (*Meloidogyne spp*) of onion.

Organic amendments, Tricho-composts and Furadan 5G with dose	Gall index (0-10 scale)			Reduction of disease severity over control (%)		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Furadan 5G@ 45kg/ha	1.43 c	1.47 b	1.27 b	59.94	46.15	63.29
Poultry refuse @ 5 t/ha	1.40 c	1.07 c	1.24 b	60.78	60.80	64.16
Mustard oilcake@ 0.6 t/ha	1.50 c	1.53 b	1.40 b	57.98	45.05	59.54
Rice bran@ 3 t/ha	1.63 bc	1.57 b	1.50 b	54.34	42.49	56.65
Saw dust@ 3 t/ha	2.03 b	1.60 b	1.75 b	43.14	41.39	49.42
Tricho-compost-1@ 3t/ha	1.53 c	1.20 c	1.28 b	57.14	56.04	63.01
Tricho-compost-2@ 3t/ha	1.33 c	1.20 c	1.27 b	62.75	56.04	63.29
Control	3.57 a	2.73 a	3.46 a	-	-	-
LSD (P=0.05)	0.443	0.235	0.303	-	-	-
CV (%)	14.01	8.64	10.67	-	-	-

Values within the same column with a common letter do not differ significantly (P=0.05)

### 3.2. Plant Growth

Average plant growth of onion under control was 42.09cm plant<sup>-1</sup> in the first year, 42.27cm plant<sup>-1</sup> in the second year and 31.45 cm plant<sup>-1</sup> in the third year. Soil amendments Tricho-composts, PR, MOC, rice bran, saw dust and Furadan 5G increased the parameter to 46.31-56.90cm plant<sup>-1</sup> in the first year, 53.67-58.27cm plant<sup>-1</sup> in the second year and 38.45-50.32cm plant<sup>-1</sup> in the third year. In the first year, the highest plant height was obtained with Tricho-compost-2 followed by PR, Tricho-compost-1 and MOC. Lower increase in plant height over control was recorded under the treatment with Furadan 5G followed by rice bran and saw

dust. In the second year, all the treatment gave significantly similar effect in increasing plant height compared to control. Higher plant height was recorded from Tricho-compost-2 followed by PR, Tricho-compost-1, MOC, Furadan 5G, saw dust and rice bran. In the third year, the maximum plant height was recorded from plots treated with Tricho-compost-2 followed by PR, Tricho-compost-1 and MOC. It was almost identical to the plant height recorded from plots treated with Tricho-compost-2, PR, Tricho-compost-1 and MOC. The least effective treatment to increase plant height was sawdust followed by rice bran and Furadan 5G (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Effect of soil treatment with organic amendments, Tricho-compost and a nematicide on the plant growth of onion in soil inoculated with *Meloidogyne spp*.

Organic amendments, Tricho-composts and Furadan 5G with dose	Plant height (cm)			Plant weight (gplant <sup>-1</sup> )		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Furadan 5G@ 45kg/ha	50.05 bc	53.87 a	42.83 c	40.90 cd	42.13 de	35.66 ab
Poultry refuse @ 5 t/ha	55.67 a	56.67 a	48.17 ab	54.45 ab	58.00 ab	40.78 a
Mustard oilcake@ 0.6 t/ha	54.13 ab	55.93 a	46.09 b	49.90 abc	50.53 bcd	35.89 ab
Rice bran@ 3 t/ha	46.31 c	53.67 a	42.39 c	43.75 bc	41.20 de	30.85 b
Saw dust@ 3 t/ha	49.65 bc	53.73 a	38.45 d	44.46 bc	43.07 cde	30.67 b
Tricho-compost-1@ 3t/ha	53.05 ab	56.67 a	47.72 ab	50.76 abc	53.47 bc	39.66 a
Tricho-compost-2@ 3t/ha	56.90 a	58.27 a	50.32 a	57.69 a	64.27 a	40.58 a
Control	42.09 c	42.27 b	31.45 e	32.93 d	38.80 e	24.08 c
LSD (P=0.05)	4.89	5.717	2.768	10.04	10.29	5.889
CV (%)	5.45	6.06	5.65	12.23	12.01	9.67

Values within the same column with a common letter do not differ significantly (P=0.05)

In first year, the plant weight of onion was 32.93 g plant<sup>-1</sup> under control. It increased to 40.90-57.69 g plant<sup>-1</sup> due to treatments with Tricho-composts, PR, MOC, rice bran,

sawdust and Furadan 5G. The highest plant weight was achieved with Tricho-compost-2 followed by PR, Tricho-compost-1 and MOC. The least effective treatment to

increase plant weight was sawdust, which was followed by rice bran and Furadan 5G. More or less similar trend was also observed in the second and third year trials. In second year, the lowest plant weight of onion was 38.80 g plant<sup>-1</sup> recorded in the control. Soil amendment with Tricho-compost-2 gave the highest plant weight 64.27 g plant<sup>-1</sup> followed by soil treatment with PR, Tricho-compost-1 and MOC where the plant weight was 58.00, 53.47 and 50.53 g plant<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (Table 2). The least effective treatment was sawdust followed by rice bran by Furadan 5G and sawdust where the plant weight was 41.20, 42.13 and 43.07 g plant<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (Table 2). In the third year, soil treated with Tricho-compost-2, PR and Tricho-compost-1 gave the higher plant weight which was followed by soil treated with MOC and Furadan 5G. The lowest plant weight was recorded from control (Table 2).

**Table 3.** Effect of soil treatment with organic amendments, Tricho-compost and a nematicide on the root growth of onion in soil inoculated with *Meloidogyne* spp.

Organic amendments, Tricho-composts and Furadan 5G with dose	Root length (cm)		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Furadan 5G@45kg/ha	7.62 b	8.53 a	6.71 d
Poultry refuse@5t/ha	8.17 ab	10.13 a	8.67 ab
Mustard oilcake@ 0.6t/ha	7.63 b	8.73 a	7.72 bcd
Rice bran@3t/ha	7.32 b	9.53 a	6.61 d
Saw dust@3t/ha	7.47 b	8.33 a	7.31 cd
Tricho-compost-1@3t/ha	8.80 a	10.27 a	8.33 bc
Tricho-compost-2@3t/ha	8.66 a	10.13 a	9.74 a
Control	5.95 c	6.33 b	5.13 e
LSD (P=0.05)	0.875	1.867	1.139
CV (%)	6.50	11.85	8.64

Values within the same column with a common letter do not differ significantly (P=0.05)

In the third year, the lowest root length was 5.13 cmplant<sup>-1</sup> recorded in control. The maximum root length was 9.74 cmplant<sup>-1</sup> achieved in Tricho-compost-2 treatment followed by PR, Trichocompost-1 and MOC where root length was 8.67, 8.33 and 7.72 cmplant<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. In this year the least effective treatment was rice bran followed by Furadan 5G and sawdust (Table 3).

### 3.4. Crop Yield

Organic soil amendments with PR and MOC, Tricho-composts and Furadan 5G gave appreciable increase in onion yield per hectare in all the years (Table 3). In first year, the

### 3.3. Root Growth

Amendment of soil with Tricho-composts, PR, MOC, rice bran and sawdust and application of Furadan 5G showed positive effects on root growth of onion as compared to control. In first year, the minimum root length of 5.95 cm/plant was recorded under control and the maximum root length of 8.80cm was achieved with Tricho-compost-1 followed by the treatments with Tricho-compost-2 and PR giving 8.66 and 8.17 cm root length, respectively (Table 3). Other treatments viz. soil amendment with MOC, rice bran and saw dust and application of Furadan 5G also increased root length over control within the range of 7.32-7.63 cm/plant. In second year, root length under control was 6.33 cm/plant. It was increased to 8.33-10.27 cm/plant due to application of different treatments.

lowest yield of 11.67 t/ha was found under control. The yield was increased to 13.33-17.78 t/ha due to application of different treatments with PR, Tricho-composts, MOC, rice bran, sawdust and Furadan 5G. The maximum yield increased 34.36% compared to control was obtained with PR followed by Tricho-compost-2, Tricho-compost-1 and MOC where yield was increased 32.23%, 29.99% and 29.99%, respectively over control (Table 4). Efficacy of four treatments to increase yield was statistically identical. The lowest increase was achieved with Furadan 5G followed by rice bran and sawdust where yield was increased 12.45%, 14.63% and 14.63%, respectively compared to control.

**Table 4.** Effect of soil treatment with organic amendments, Tricho-composts and a nematicide on the yield of onion in soil inoculated with *Meloidogyne* spp.

Organic amendments, Tricho-composts and Furadan 5G with dose	Yield (tha <sup>-1</sup> )			Yield increased over control (%)		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Furadan 5G@45kg/ha	13.33 b	12.09 abc	10.55 c	12.45	23.57	14.50
Poultry refuse@5t/ha	17.78 a	13.87 a	12.67 ab	34.36	33.38	28.81
Mustard oilcake@0.6t/ha	16.67 a	12.22 abc	11.47 bc	29.99	24.39	21.36
Rice bran@3t/ha	13.67 b	11.38 bcd	10.89 c	14.63	18.80	17.17
Saw dust@3t/ha	13.67 b	11.02 cd	10.44 c	14.63	16.15	13.60
Tricho-compost-1@3t/ha	16.67 a	13.60 ab	12.22 ab	29.99	32.06	26.19
Tricho-compost-2@3t/ha	17.22 a	13.95 a	12.78 a	32.23	33.76	29.42
Control	11.67 c	9.24 d	9.02 d	-	-	-
LSD (P=0.05)	1.64	2.13	1.198	-	-	-
CV (%)	6.22	10.00	6.07	-	-	-

Values within the same column with a common letter do not differ significantly (P=0.05)

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, average yield of onion was 9.24 t/ha under control and 11.02 to 13.95 t/ha under treated plots. Soil Treated with Tricho-compost-2 and PR gave the maximum yield which was followed by soil amendment with Tricho-compost-1, MOC and Furadan 5G. The yield increased over control was significant under all treatments with Tricho-composts, PR, MOC and Furadan 5G. The highest yield increased over control was obtained with Tricho-compost-2 33.76% followed by PR, Tricho-compost-1, MOC and Furadan 5G where yield was 33.38%, 32.06%, 24.39% and 23.57%, respectively higher than control. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, the highest yield was 12.78 t/ha obtained with Tricho-compost-2 followed by PR, Tricho-compost-1 and MOC where yield was 12.67, 12.22 and 11.47 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>. The least effective treatment was sawdust followed by Furadan 5G and rice bran where yield was 10.44, 10.55 and 10.89 t/ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The lowest yield of 9.02 t/ha<sup>-1</sup> obtained under control. Soil treated with Tricho-compost-2 gave 29.42% higher yield over control followed by PR, Tricho-compost-1 and MOC where yield was 28.81%, 26.19% and 21.36% higher than control. The lowest increase of yield was achieved with sawdust followed by Furadan 5G and rice bran where yield was 13.60%, 14.50% and 17.17%, respectively higher compared to control.

## 4. Discussion

The present study showed that amending the soil with organic materials, namely PR, MOC, sawdust, rice bran and two different Tricho-compost, suppressed the disease severity of root-knot nematode caused by *Meloidogyne* spp. of onion with a concomitant increase in the growth and yield of onion. This is in agreement with previous findings of Chindo and Khan [35] and Nico *et al.* [36], who used poultry manure and decomposed agro-industrial waste products, namely composed dry cork, dry grape marc, dry olive marc and rice husk, as soil amendments for the management of *Meloidogyne* spp. Nico *et al.* [36] reported that composted agro-industrial waste reduced the populations of *Meloidogyne* spp. by 24.4% to 87.9%. Beneficial effects of organic wastes on nematode control and crop growth were also observed by other researchers [32, 36-40]. Among all the treatments PR and Tricho-compost-2 recorded the highest improvement in plant growth and maximum reduction in the root knot disease severity. Other treatments *viz.*, Tricho-compost-1, MOC, rice bran and sawdust also showed significant enhancement in plant growth of onion and reduction in the severity of root knot nematode. The potential of all treatments to inhibit nematode activity resulted in increased yield of onion. This beneficial relationship and improvement in plant growth parameters may be due to release of allelochemicals and nutrients on the decomposition of the amendment that enhance the beneficial microflora of the soil rhizosphere that act as promoter of growth activity. While the reduction in nematode infestation may be due to release of some toxic chemicals which either disrupt the life cycle of the nematode or lesser down the

infectivity of the juvenile.

Ibrahim and Ibrahim [41] observed that the soil amended with manures greatly suppressed the nematode reproduction (egg mass production). Umar and Jada [42] also used goat manure that inhibited the growth and development of *Meloidogyne incognita* in pot tests. Siddiqui *et al.* [43]; Verma *et al.* [44] also reported that application of organic manuring resulted in less galling and nematode multiplication. Bulluck *et al.* [45] reported that soil amendments had a large impact on nematode community structure and diversity. Costa *et al.* [46] observed reduced nematode egg production when poultry manure extracts were applied to *M. incognita*-inoculated tomato plants. Devi and Hassan [47] reported that all treatments of *T. viride*, farmyard and poultry manures reduced nematode gall formation. Sundararaju *et al.* [48] reported that the population of root knot nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita*) was significantly lower in plants that received poultry manure.

In regard to mode of action of organic manure against soil nematode, Lazarovits *et al.* [49] reported that high-nitrogen-containing organic amendments such as poultry or cattle manure had an immediate suppressive effect on soil nematodes as a result of ammonia release immediately after initiation of microbial decomposition. Also, Oka and Pivonia [50] stated that organic fertilizers contain ammonia and formulations releasing this form of nitrogen in the soil that can suppress nematode populations. Mbah and Onweremadu [51] reported that farming practices such as organic fertilizing can be geared to conserve and promote soil aggregations that impede the nematode larvae movement.

Compost is an aerobically decomposed organic material derived from plant biomass and animal source. It is rich in available soil nutrients and often used in gardens, landscaping, horticulture and agricultural field crops, to build soil fertility. Physical and chemical properties of the soil are improved by the use of compost, which ultimately increases crop yield [52]. Nematode suppression with compost amendments may involve different mechanisms, such as direct toxicity of degradation products, an increase of natural nematode-antagonist micro-organisms on the compost substrate or even the induction of systemic acquired resistance in plants [53 and 54]. Olabiyi and Oladeji [55] reported that the application of different composts prepared through Rapid Composting Technology with *Trichoderma harzianum* as decomposer significantly reduced the erratic nematode population changes and also have significant effect on the growth and yield of crop.

## 5. Conclusion

Root knot nematodes of onion caused by *M. incognita* and *M. graminicola* are become destructive and most prevalent in the tropical and sub-tropical countries where temperatures are 18 to 27°C. In this study different sources of organic materials *viz.* poultry refuse, mustard oil cake, rice bran, sawdust and Tricho-composts, and a nematicide Furadan 5G were evaluated against root nematode, *Meloidogyne*

*incognita* on the major spices onion, *Allium cepa* L in the field. The findings of the present investigations revealed that all the organic soil amendments and nematicide significantly reduced root knot disease severity and increased plant growth as well as yield of onion. Among the treatments Tricho-composts and poultry refuse appeared to be the best amendments for root knot nematode reduction and significantly influenced the growth of the onion with the highest yield. Saw dust, rice bran and nematicide Furadan 5G were also proved to be better amendment for reduction of root knot nematode which enhanced plant growth and increased yield of onion. These results suggest that exploitation of organic soil amendment in nematode management would be a useful control measure in onion production in Bangladesh.

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